



*Your Land.
Your Voice.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2021

Contact: Corey Himrod

Tel: 202-266-0426 | Email: corey@alaskawild.org

Biden to scrap Trump environmental review of oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge

Washington — Today, the Biden administration, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and the U.S. Department of the Interior announced via Notice of Intent in the Federal Register plans to begin a new environmental review of oil and gas development on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the September 2019 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS. [You can find the Notice of Intent here.](#)

Statement by Kristen Miller, Acting Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

“We applaud the Biden administration for its continued commitment to protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and honoring the Gwich’in people. As we continue to face a worsening climate crisis, there is no place for the rushed, inadequate Arctic Refuge oil and gas plan finalized under the previous administration. President Biden and Secretary Haaland recognized serious flaws in the Arctic Refuge leasing program completed by the Trump administration and the need for a robust environmental review of oil and gas development in one of the world’s most exceptional ecosystems.

“Today’s announcement is undeniably good news for the Arctic Refuge, but there is still more work to be done. The Trump administration aggressively moved to get leases into the hands of oil companies prior to the end of its only term, and until those leases are canceled and the Arctic Refuge drilling mandate reversed, one of the wildest places left in America will remain under threat. We call on the Biden administration to work with Congress to repeal the oil leasing mandate and buy back those leases as part of the upcoming budget package, restoring protections to the Arctic Refuge coastal plain.”

###

Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state’s land, waters and wildlife. We believe that Alaska’s long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism, and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans’ quality of life.



www.AlaskaWild.org

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 * Tel: 202-544-5205 * Fax: 202-544-5197